***A Tale about a Tail***

“Mom, there’s a cat on the deck,” said my son Ryan, looking out the patio door.

“What? We don’t have a cat!” I said. I was standing at the sink after supper, washing the dishes and staring out the window into the dark. I couldn’t see what he was talking about.

“It’s digging into the bucket of apples,” he said. “His tail is weird though, kinda pointy with no fur.”

“Ryan, there’s no cat out there. Go get ready for bed,” I said, shooing him off to his room.

I awoke the next morning and trudged off to the kitchen to start a pot of coffee. Soon Ryan shuffles in, sleepy-eyed and hungry for breakfast. He pours himself some cereal and milk and sits down at the kitchen table. I head to the laundry room to tackle the never-ending pile of clothes.

“Mom, the cat is back!” he shouts from the kitchen. “His tail is sticking out of the apple bucket!”

Over the drone of the washer and dryer, I holler back “Just a minute! I’m busy!” As a mother of four, I’m constantly being pulled in different directions. At that moment, a hot cup of coffee was my first priority.

I head into the kitchen and look over to Ryan, who is staring out the patio door while slowly spooning Frosted Flakes into his mouth and spilling some milk on the way there.

“As soon as you finish your cereal, you need to head out and feed your rabbit,” I tell him.

“Nuh, uh; no way, Jose!” he tells me. “Not with that goofy cat out there! He might git me!”

 Curiosity finally got the best of me, so I headed over to the patio doors to see what he was so worked up about. And sure enough, there was a critter in the apple bucket!

But it wasn’t a scraggly old cat. It was a possum, skinny and ugly and hissing through the glass at us! No wonder Ryan didn’t want to go out there!

My adrenaline at an all-time high, I grabbed a shovel from the garage and headed out the patio doors to whack that nasty critter out of my apple bucket and off my deck! He limped across the field and down to the creek after that, making this Mom a SUPERHERO and providing a silly story for my kids to share with their kids someday!